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FOOD INFORMATION CALENDAR

OFFICE OF INFORMATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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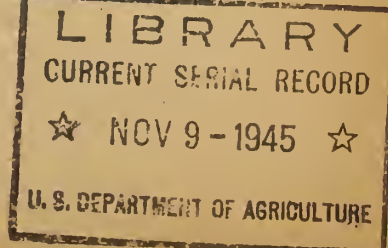
1946 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM. . . . The "grass roots" approach adopted for the 1946 Agricultural Conservation Program is expected to speed the efficient reconversion of the nation's farmland from the strain of wartime production to longer-range soil-building and water conservation. The 1946 program in most States will give more responsibility to AAA county and community committeemen in selecting practices to be carried out on farms. Each county will be given an allocation of funds next year. Past programs have allocated assistance principally according to a statewide formula.

The new program calls for about the same amount of assistance to farmers as they received under the 1945 program. More soil practices are expected to be carried out, however, as farmers will be asked to bear a little more of the conservation cost next year. The 1946 ACP program is divided into these types of practices for which assistance will be available: (1) Application of lime, fertilizers and other materials; (2) planting of cover crops; (3) harvesting of legume and grass seeds; (4) erosion control and water conservation; (5) range and pasture improvement; (6) forestry; (7) other practices such as noxious weed control and clearing land for tillage or pasture.

PUSH POTATOES, POSSIBLY CAULIFLOWER. . . . Potatoes still warrant all possible promotion despite a smaller crop of Maine potatoes than was expected. Even though USDA officials now believe they have adequate outlets for any support-purchased spuds they buy, they emphasize that potatoes should be eaten rather than diverted to alcohol. Late potatoes are now coming to market, the kind of potatoes that CAN BE STORED. If the situation on late potatoes warrants, a campaign pushing sales of 50- or 100- pounds bags will be forthcoming.

It may be necessary to promote the consumption of cauliflower in all States east of the Mississippi River, plus Missouri. A fact sheet has been written and is ready for distribution if a concerted push is necessary.

AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS. . . . The Senate passed a measure to permit alcohol plants to produce sugar and syrups. October 17, the House Appropriations Committee reported a bill rescinding certain appropriations for lend-lease, emergency food supplies, WFA salaries and expenses, emergency rubber projects, etc., and providing for transfer of the \$500,000,000 price support item to CCC as a reserve fund.



THE 1946 PEANUT PROGRAM was discussed October 15 from all angles by representative growers, shellers, members of farm organizations, Congressmen, and others at a meeting in the Department conducted by the Peanut Division of the Fats and Oils Branch.

FAO CONSTITUTION SIGNED BY 30 NATIONS. . . . The Food and Agriculture Organization officially came into being October 16 as the following 30 nations signed its constitution at the Quebec Conference: Australia, Belgium, China, Canada, Dominican Republic, Denmark, Egypt, France, Guatemala, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Iraq, Liberia, Luxembourg, Czechoslovakia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Peru, Philippine Commonwealth, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom, United States, and Venezuela.

Authority for Russia's signature is reported to be on the way. Chile and other countries are also expected to sign the constitution soon. At the first plenary session of the conference October 16, Secretary Anderson was made chairman of the nomination committee. Later actions reported by Henry Jarrett of BAE, who is Press Relations Officer for the United States, include: L. B. Pearson, Canada's Ambassador to the United States, made permanent chairman of the conference. . . China and Mexico given vice chairmanships. . . Mr. Pearson made chairman of a "steering committee" consisting of the two vice chairmen of the conference and representatives of France, the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia, India, and the Netherlands.

"RADIO-ACTIVITY" OCTOBER 27. . . NATIONAL FARM AND HOME HOUR--Dr. Benjamin Schwartz who is in charge of the Zoological Division of BAI will discuss the Department's world famous catalog of insects. YOUR HOME AND GARDEN SHOW--Ken Gapen, the Department's Western Radio Advisor at San Francisco, on temporary assignment in Washington, will be Ruth Van Deman's guest on the homemaker part of this show. Ernie Moore and Duke DuMars will discuss chrysanthemums for the benefit of gardeners. CONSUMER TIME--Tips on saving fuel this winter will be dramatized.

COTTON CONFERENCES SCHEDULED. . . . Three group conferences of extension workers to discuss Extension's responsibilities to the cotton problem and the postwar agricultural economy of the South are scheduled as follows: November 8-9, Memphis, Tenn., Chisca Hotel, for Ark., Ky., La., Miss., and Tenn.; November 12-13, Dallas, Tex., Jefferson Hotel, for Mo., Okla., Tex., possibly Ariz., Calif., and N. Mex.; November 19-20, Atlanta, Ga., Piedmont Hotel, for Ala., Fla., Ga., N.C., S.C., and Va.

PLATTER CUTTING OCTOBER 25 Another platter in the "Farm Science Serves the Nation" series is scheduled for cutting October 25 and will feature the holiday turkey. Marketing poultry systematically is the subject of a two-part discussion planned for the other side with Dewey Termohlen, Assistant Director of the Poultry Branch, giving the facts.

FAT SALVAGE. . . . This program continues to warrant all the help Department information workers can give it. Glycerine stocks are low and salvaged fat may have to make up the deficit here, as well as in fat-for-soap stocks, fat-for-nylon stocks, and for other "consumer" goods.

FOURTH REPORT OF OWMR.....A chart summarizing where Government agencies stand on reconversion is incorporated in the 4th Report of the Director of War Mobilization and Reconversion dated October 1. The section for USDA shows the following: "Policies: to readjust agricultural output to peacetime needs; reduction in some goals indicated; to continue price support program for at least two years; Actions Taken So Far: Reexamined food goals; removed about half of food controls; eliminated most set-asides for military needs; Future Plans: To eliminate subsidies as rapidly as possible without upsetting markets, and to develop a program of long-run agricultural readjustments to bring United States output into line with world supply-demand position."

USDA RELEASES Potato diversion started--1937; FAO conference statement by Secretary Anderson At Quebec, Canada--1947; New increase in flue-cured tobacco allocations--1948.

OTHER RELEASES OF AGRICULTURAL IMPORTANCE. . . . Boundaries for sugar distribution zones revised for more even channeling--OPA-5972; Suspension of price ceilings on white potatoes continued from October 25 to December 5--OPA-5989; "Disaster" increase in ceiling prices for 1945 crop California table grapes announced--OPA-5992; Natural condition unpacked dried prunes and raisins removed from price control--OPA-5987; Sauerkraut exempted from price control effective 10/18/45--OPA-5985; Adjustable pricing rules liberalized to encourage shipment of cotton textile fabrics urgently needed for civilian apparel--OPA-5993.

RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS. . . . Three recent research achievement sheets bring to 46 the total issued by ARA. Sheet 44(P) describes improvement of the wild blueberry by Department scientists; 45(P) entitled "One-Variety-Cotton Communities Provide for Superior Cotton Fabrics" explains the advantages of a community raising a single improved variety of cotton; 46(A) has a self-explanatory title "Fast-Feathering Chickens Make Superior Broilers." Copies of these sheets may be obtained from the Coordinator of Research Publications, USDA.

8-POINT DAIRY PROGRAM MATERIALS. . . . The 8-point Dairy Program flyer has been distributed. The envelope of materials described in last week's Calendar will be ready for processing next week and should reach State Extension Services shortly thereafter.

MORE ABOUT GOALS AND PRICES. . . . Suggested goals for commercial early potatoes should be ready for release in about a week. They are being developed in advance of support prices for all potatoes.

RURAL CHURCH PROGRAM. . . . Cooperation of rural pastors and county extension representatives to stimulate church attendance was the theme of a recent meeting in Philadelphia of Protestant town and country pastors from all sections of the country. Dr. Douglas Ensminger of Extension Service attended the meeting at which these recommendations were made: (1) To develop maximum cooperation with the State extension services in sponsoring summer short courses for rural pastors and (2) to develop plans for annual meetings between rural pastors and extension staffs, primarily at county levels.

POULTRY FACT SHEET. . . . The Department is getting ready to push an expected abundance of fryers, stewing chickens, and turkeys throughout the country, beginning in the major broiler-producing areas. The drive will involve not only consumer use, but orderly culling and marketing. A fact sheet is now in preparation. The "timing" will be determined in the next few days.
